

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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498,323

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Portable Transparent Screens for use in Hospitals and other purposes

I, JAMES ELVINS MCCARTNEY, 147, Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, London, S.E.12, British subject, by birth, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention relates to portable transparent screens for use in hospitals and other purposes, and has for its object to produce a screen which can easily be moved about to enclose a bed, which will enable the patient to see and be seen, and which will be easily washed or sterilised. The primary object of this screen is to enable a bed to be partially or totally enclosed to prevent the spread of infection. The screen may be made with a hinged

or rigid metal frame of ordinary construction. The frame is continuously covered with a waterproof material such as mackintosh sheeting or oiled silk arranged so as to be easily detached. The upper part consists of one or more panels made preferably of transparent material which will be washable, flexible, and non-inflammable, such as cellulose acetate or oiled silk. In this way windows are formed, holes being cut in the waterproof sheeting and filled with the transparent material which may be cemented or stitched in place.

Dated the nineteenth day of July, 1937.

J. E. MCCARTNEY,

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Portable Transparent Screens for use in Hospitals and other purposes

I, JAMES ELVINS MCCARTNEY, 147, Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, London, S.E.12, British subject, by birth, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to portable transparent screens for use in hospitals and other purposes, and has for its object to produce a screen which can easily be moved about to enclose a bed, which will enable the patient to see and be seen, and which will be easily washed or sterilised. The primary object of this screen is to enable a bed to be partially or totally enclosed to prevent the spread of infection. The screen may be made with a hinged or rigid metal frame of ordinary construction. The frame is continuously covered with a waterproof material such as mackintosh sheeting arranged so as to be easily detached. The screen is provided with one or more transparent windows or panels made of material which will be washable, flexible, and non-inflammable, such as cellulose acetate or oiled silk. These windows are preferably formed in the upper part of the screen, holes being cut in the waterproof sheet-

ing and filled with the transparent material which may be cemented or stitched in place. Alternatively, the windows may be substantially co-extensive with the screen panels.

It is already known to use portable screens covered with non-transparent material which is inflammable and not waterproof and does not enable the patient to see or be seen. Screens of glass in wood and metal frames have also been used but they are inconveniently heavy and cannot easily be adapted to varying conditions. My invention is intended to overcome these disadvantages.

In order that the nature of the invention may be more fully ascertained, one illustrative embodiment will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

The screen consists of a number of panels, usually four, each of which has a metal frame (1) of ordinary construction, the adjacent panels being preferably hinged together as at (2) so that the complete screen may be adjusted to the side and end of the bed, or folded up when not in use. The complete frame is covered with flexible, waterproof, washable material (3) such as mackintosh sheeting or oiled silk secured to the frame

by lacing through eyelets (4) or other convenient means, so that it may easily be detached when required. A large rectangular opening (5) is provided in the material of each panel and filled with a transparent, washable, flexible, and non-inflammable material such as cellulose acetate so as to form a window at the upper part, or if desired of substantially the whole area of the screen panel. The transparent material may be stitched or cemented in place.

It has been found that a screen with a height of about 7 feet is sufficient to prevent the spread of infection by aerial means from one bed to another, and this is the height I prefer. The total length of the screen should be about 9 feet so that the screen can flank one side and the end of the bed, but it will be understood that other dimensions may be used without departing from the spirit of the invention. Two screens would normally be

used to surround a bed.

The frame may be provided with castors to facilitate moving it from place to place.

The complete screen may be sterilised by washing with soap and water or antiseptic solution.

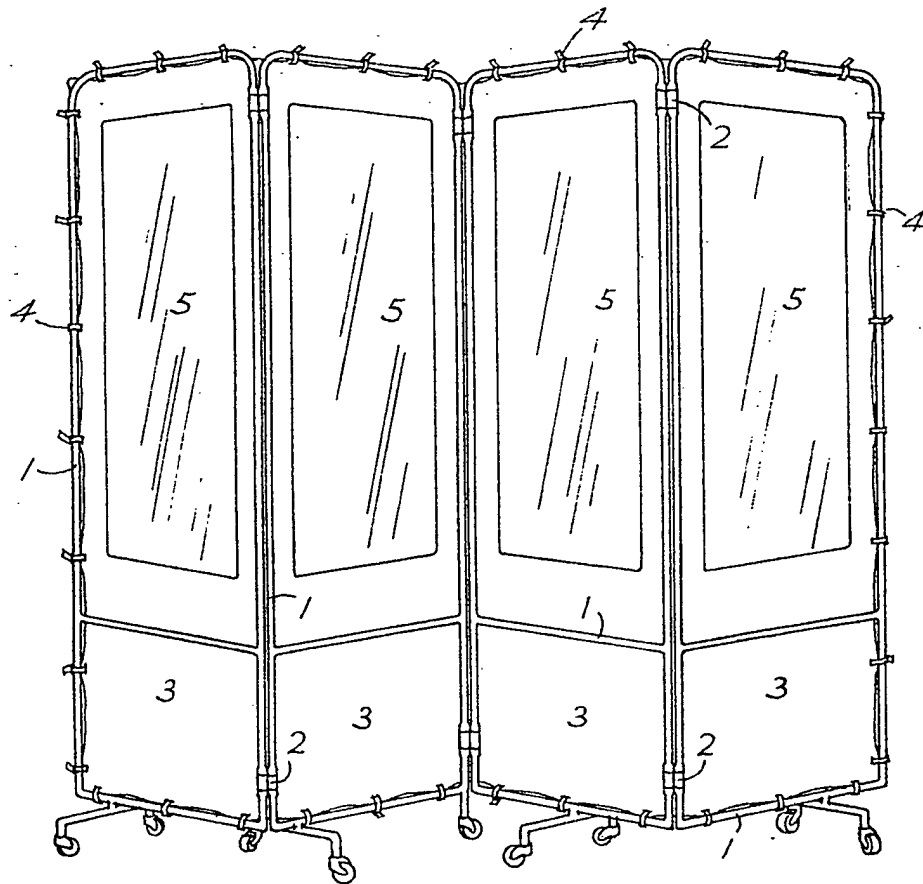
Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

1. A screen for enabling a bed to be partially or totally enclosed to prevent the spread of infection consisting of a portable frame on which is stretched flexible, waterproof, washable material provided with transparent, flexible, washable and non-inflammable windows.

2. A screen as described in claim (1) in which the windows are substantially co-extensive with the screen panels.

Dated the twelfth day of July, 1938.

J. E. McCARTNEY,



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]